

Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes for meeting of September 1, 2009, 3:00 PM,
Municipal Office Building, Mountain Road, Harpswell, Maine

Members present: Mary Ann Nahf (chair), Deirdre Strachan, Don Jones, Burr Taylor, Ann Nemrow. Absent: Tony Barrett, Anne Perry (arr. 3:25)
Non-members present: Carol Tukey, Town Planner,

Meeting called to order at 3:04 pm by M. Nahf. Minutes of Aug. 18, 2009 approved.
Moved by D. Strachan, seconded by A. Nemrow. Unanimously approved.

Announcements:

Committee members reminded to sign and return committee guidelines to Linda Strickland. Maine Coastal Waters Conference. D. Strachan to attend. Registration is online only.

Old Business:

M. Nahf will send follow-up to HCC members re Orrr's Island bridge property that was discussed at 8/18 meeting. Meeting with selectmen set for 9/8 at 4:30pm. Agenda and resolution will be sent to them in advance of the meeting. Issues to discuss are: HCC applying for 2 grants, conservation easement on Cliff Trail, Cedar Beach update, Hildreth Road parcel update with survey plans, resolution and other water protection initiatives and methodology for identifying land easement/acquisition in the future.

Subcommittees:

Conservation Education: Resolution is prepared and ready for presentation to selectmen at meeting next week. A. Perry mentioned an article in the paper re beach access that she found informative.

Land Conservation: D. Strachan reviewed Otter Brook (OB) corridor discussions re contacting abutters to get their input on protection of wetland. Also pointed out that all wetland abutters in Town should be contacted. Any HCC presentation to abutters should stress value and importance of wetlands. Discussed whether to do OB group alone or in conjunction with other areas of Town. It was decided to do a separate meeting with OB abutters first. Talked about how to keep abreast of new land that comes on the market in the future. Contacting local realtors would be a good starting point as well as monitoring Coldwell Banker website, New England Moves.com. B. Taylor to monitor website and contact Morton and Rob Williams, D. Jones to contact Homes & Harbors. Focus will be on property that is on coastline, wetlands or has water access. BT and DJ to coordinate talking points. HCC to narrow this down at later date, prior to contacting realtors. Cliff Trail easement. Will talk to HHLT. What activities will be permitted, hiking, non-motorized vehicles (except emergency), leashed dogs etc. discussed. Objective is to protect natural resource and scenic views with an easement. B. Taylor pointed out that the Town is writing the easement so that the Town has control. Would probably cost about \$10,000 for easement and stewardship. Wharton Grant may be a good fit for this rather

than vernal pool project. D. Jones moved to apply for Wharton Grant for Cliff Trail easement. M. Nahf seconded. Unanimous vote to approve. Cedar Beach. Issue is legal access to the road. What area of the beach itself has access. Parking along Robin Hood needs to be clarified. Need to find regs on beaches in Maine. Find history of past discussion with Abramson re easement on beach. Talked about developing a pamphlet for donating land or easements to the Town. HHLT has something that has been useful and Town needs to have a handout in the future.

New Business:

Wharton Grant deadline is 9/15. D. Strachan will write it up and send to HCC members. Maine state conservation grant deadline is 9/15 and HHLT will apply for \$210K for the Williams property in the Basin Cove area. HCC to write letter of support for HHLT. The 27 acre wetland in this area was not identified in 1999 survey so it was not in the open space plan. Need to get it placed on state wetlands map. C. Tukey to make call. D. Strachan motioned to issue support letter to HHLT, D. Jones seconded and it was approved unanimously. Senter Grant. Apply for \$3000 for wetland delineation of the OB wetland and outreach and educational purposes. M. Nahf made a motion to apply for Grant, A. Nemrow seconded, approved unanimously. Vernal Pools. On back burner for now. Need large scale funding for entire project. Much more cost effective to do entire project at once than in stages. Total costs could run to \$20K or more. Awaiting breakout proposal from Sewell Co. in event we need to fund in stages.

Common Ground Fair. HCC to provide the Open Space Plan tri-fold for MEACC booklet at the Fair in September.

Order of issues to be discussed with selectmen next week will be as follows:

Program to introduce promotion of clean water through natural landscaping.
Hildreth Rd. property as educational test site and grant application
Cliff Trail easement and grant application
Cedar Beach possibilities
Williams property letter of support

Adjourned at 5:15pm

D. Jones sec'y.